ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

Eighteenth Anniversary

OF THE

Shelby Missionary Baptist Association.

HELD WITH

MONTEVALLO CHURCH,

Shelby County, Alabama,

On the 9th, 11th, and 12th of October, 1869.

COLUMBIANA, ALABAMA:
W. ROBERTS, PRINTER.

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MINUTES.

SATURDAY, October 9, 1869.

The Delegates to the Shelby Baptist Association convened with the Montevallo Church, on Saturday before the Second Sabbath in October, 1869.

Elder T. P. Holcomb, who was appointed at our last session to preach the Introductory Sermon, being unwell, Eld. J. A. Hill delivered a discourse, by way of comment on a portion of the 11th chapter of the Gospel by Luke.

The delegates assembled in the Church at 3½ o'clock P. M. and were called to order by Elder T. P. Holcomb, former Moderator, and the Association opened with prayer by Brother J. C. Hand.

Letters from the churches were called for, received read and the names of the delegates enrolled.*

Proceeded to the election of Moderator and Clerk. Elder T. P. Holcomb, was elected Moderator and C. W. O'Hara, Cerk.

A door was then opened for the reception of newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from other Associations, when petitionary letters were presented from Union, Salem, and Evergreen churches, by their delegates,* all in Shelby County. Letters were read, and Churches received by the Moderator extending to the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

Appointed Committees:—

ON PREACHING—Bro. R. Owen, Sr., from the first district. Brethren N. Thomas, and Wesley Armstrong, the second district with the deacons of Montevallo Church.

ON FINANCE:—Brethren Wm J. Peters, and Wm Watson.

ON DOCUMENTS:—Brethren J. H. R. Carden Wm Watson R. Owen, Sr., H. R. Lyman, and A. A. Sterrett.

ON SABBATH SCHOOLS:—Brethren H. R. Lyman, J. H. R. Carden, J. C. Hand, R. Wood, Wm J Peters, and J. C. Boykin.

ON MISSIONS:—Brethren W. W. Armstrong, J. C. Hand, J. H. R. Carden, N. Thomas, and R. Woods.

Called for correspondence:—

Brethren, John Boyd, and Lewis were received as messengers from the Mulberry Association, with letter. Brethren S. Henderson, and ——— Pope, from the Coosa River, without letter.

Invited visiting ministering brethren to seats.

* For Delegates names see table of statistics.

Elder J. A. Hill, agent for Orphan's Home from Miss., making known his mission, was requested to address the congregation on Sunday 10 o'clock A. M. Elder M. T. Sumner, Corresponding Secretary of the Domestic and Indian Mission Boards of the Southern Baptist Convention, addressed the Association, in a few pertinent remarks, setting forth the object of his mission.

The Association adjourned until Monday morning 9 o'clock.

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SUNDAY, October 10th.

According to the arrangement of the committee on preaching, at 10 o'clock, A. M., Elder J. A. Hill, addressed the congregation on the subject of the Orphan's Home. O, may this subject sink deep into the heart of every one. At 11 A. M. Elder J. C. Hand, under appointment of last session, preached the Missionary Sermon from the 35th verse of the 4th chapter of the Gospel by John. After which a collection was taken up for the support of domestic missions the amount of which will be found in the report of the committee on finance.

At 3 P. M. Elder Sam'l Henderson, preached from Matt., 22nd chapter and 14th verse. Elder M. T. Sumner, followed by, Elder W. T. Rogers, preached from the 10th verse of the 3d chapter of Paul's Epistle to the Galatians, at night. These services were attended by large and attentive congregations. May much good be the result of the services of this day.

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MONDAY, October 11th.

Met pursuant to adjournment. Joined in singing. Prayer by Bro. J. C. Boykin.

Again called for correspondence, when Bro. W. T. Rogers was received as a messenger from the Canaan Association, with minutes and letter.

Bro J. A. Melcher, was recognized as a member of the Cahaba Association.

Returned Correspondence:—

To the Mulberry Association—R. Wood, T. L. Miles, Wm Watson.

To the Cahaba Valley—T. B. Dison.

To the Canaan—J. C. Boykin, T. P. Holcomb, T. L. Miles.

To the Tuscaloosa—B. L. Cruise, J. H. Pratt, W. V. Arnold.

To the Coosa River—J. C. Boykin, A. A. Sterrett.

To the Ten Island—J. H. R. Carden, C. W. O'Hara, T. B. Dison, and J. C. Hand.

Called the roll and dropped the names of absentees.

The Constitution, Abstract of Principles and Rules of Decorum were read.

Appointed Elder J. C. Boykin, to preach the next Introductory sermon, J. C. Hand, alternate. Elder J. C. Tichnor to preach the Missionary sermon, J. C. Boykin alternate.

Appointed the next session of this body to be held with Liberty Church, commencing on Saturday before the second Sabbath in October, 1870.

RESOLUTIONS.

WHEREAS, It is eminently desirable for the Baptists of Alabama to be united in prosecuting the great work committed to them by the glorified Redeemer, Therefore—

Resolved, That a delegation be appointed at this time to represent this Association, in the Alabama Baptist State Convention to be held at Oxford, commencing on Friday before the second Sabbath in November, 1869. Adopted.

Whereupon, Elders R. Wood, J. C. Boykin, J. C. Hand, J. H. R. Carden, T. P. Holcomb, and T. B. Dison were appointed as delegates. Also any other brother or brethren that may go will be recognized by this Association as delegates.

The following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, That we request the Domestic Mission Board at Marion, to appoint two Missionaries to labor within the bounds of this Association, for six months of the year from the 1st of May, 1870, and that they receive $200 each for their services; this Association being responsible to pay $200 of the amount—the names to be furnished by this Association.

Resolved, That Bro. J. C. Boykin be requested to receive the amount of money collected for the support of our missionaries to be appointed by the Domestic Mission Board to labor within the bounds of this Association for six months from the 1st of May 1870, and that he be instructed to pay the same to the Domestic Mission Board at the next session of the Alabama Baptist State Convention to be held at Oxford, on Friday before the second Sabbath in November next. Ninety-eight dollars being collected, was paid over to Bro. J. C. Boykin.

According to the resolution above, the names of Elders J. H. R. Carden and J. C. Hand, are furnished the Domestic Mission Board to be appointed as missionaries to labor as before stated—to make what collections they may be able to, and take up such subscriptions as the people are willing to make for the support of domestic missionaries, and pay the same over when collected to the Domestic Mission Board at Marion. Also said missionaries are requested to give our colored brethren all the assistance in their power.

REPORT OF THE DOMESTIC MISSIONARIES.

Dear Brethren of the Shelby Association: Having been appointed at your last session to preach the Gospel to the destitute neighborhoods in your bounds, we therefore report as follows:

Time spent by W. W. Armstrong, 46 days;
" " " J. C. Hand 32 "
" " " J. H. R. Carden, 16 "

We found several neighborhoods destitute of Baptist preaching and almost destitute of any religious influence, but the people in such places received us gladly and gave good attention to the word preached. We hope much good has been accomplished, in which christians have been built up, sinners convicted and mourners comforted. We baptised 7 happy converts and assisted in the constitution of 3 churches during the time that we labored. We have reason to thank God and take courage, for the signs of life and growth is visible in almost evrey part of our field of labor.

W. W. ARMSTRONG
J. C. HAND,
J. H. R. CARDEN.

Bro. J. H. R. Carden, having volunteered his services and reported labor performed was recognized by the Association as a missionary.

Report of the Committee on Domestic Missions.*

Report of the Committee on Documents.

We your Committee, having examined the letters from the different churches find nothing worthy of special notice, but we would recommend the members of our denomination to patronize our denominational literature, especially the Baptist. South Western Baptist and Index, Child's Delight, Kind Words, and the Home and Foreign Journal. All of which is respecfully submitted

J. H. R. CARDEN, Char'm.

Received and committee discharged.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Every day reveals the fact that our churches are becoming more and more interested in the cause of Sabbath Schools—while this is highly gratifying, it is to be regreted that our brethren are not more energetic and persevering in their efforts to organize and maintain them. They tell us that they would be delighted to have Sabbath Schools in their churches, but that there are difficulties which they cannot overcome. We think these difficulties are often more im-

* Adopted the report of the Committee on Domestic Missions of the fifth annual session, which may be found on the 51, 52 and 53 pages of the Association Book.

aginary than real. We would therefore urge upon the membership of our churches the necessity of more zeal and self-denial in this department of christian effort.

We have only to look at those churches where successful Sabbath Schools are maintained to be convinced of the blessings to be derived from their instrumentalities.

Let us then determine never to be satisfied until we have a good Sabbath School in every church in our Association.

H. R. LYMAN, Ch'm'n.

Received and committee discharged.

Adjourned until Tuesday 9. o'clock A. M.

TUESDAY, Oct. 12th

Association met, engaged in singing and was opened with prayer by brother Jas. Grimes.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

For Minutes	$ 28 55
For Associational Purposes	19 75
Sent up for Missions	31 80
Collected in Sabbath School for Missions	18 90
Collected on previous pledges for Missions	104 70
Sent up for Sabbath Schools	6 50
Amt in pledges for Missions for 1860	32 75
Amt in pledges for Missions for 1870	66 50
Total	$261 15

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Received and committee discharged.

The following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, The terrible evils of intemperance have been seen and felt in our Association as well as in other places, and it becomes us to give some expression of our abhorrence of this evil. Therefore—

Resolved, 1st. That we would have it known that we set the seal of our hearty disapprobation upon the use of Ardent Spirits as a beverage.

2. That we earnestly urge upon the churches the necessity of the exercise of a rigid discipline in this particular.

3. That it is the duty of ministers to bring this matter before their congregations in their sermons, upon all proper occasions.

WHEREAS, We think the churches are not fully up to their duty in regard to their obligations to missions and other benevolent objects. Therefore—

Resolved, That we, the members of this Association, fully determined to make greater sacrifices in this direction, would earnestly urge all our brethren to increase their contributions as God shall prosper them.

On motion, *Resolved*, That the funds (for missions) on hand and pledges for 1869, and all other previous pledges be divided among our missionaries for the past years services —giving to each his pro rata share according to the number of days he labored.

Appointed Brethren T. P. Holcomb, J. C. Hand and C. W. O'Hara as a committee, to visit the Shelby Springs' Missionary Baptist Association of colored Churches to be held at Shelby Springs on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in October, 1869, to give them any assistance that they may need.

C. W. O'Hara, whose duty it was made, at our last session, to procure an Association Book, and transcribe the proceedings of the Association, since its constitution, therein, reports that he has done the same—was engaged 17 days in the work, for which the Association allows him $2 00 per day for his services.

The District Meeting for the 1st District, will be held with the Cahaba Valley Church on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in August, 1870.

District Meeting for the 2nd District, will be held with the Beaver Creek Church on Saturday before the 3rd Sabbath in August 1870.

Directed, that the Clerk pay over to J. C. Boykin $6 50, the amount sent up for Sabbath Schools, which is done.

Directed, that the Clerk superintend the printing of as many of these minutes as the funds will justify, reserve 50 copies for correspondence, transcribe the present minutes in the Association Book and receive $20 for his services.

Appointed, Bro. H. R. Lyman distributing agent for the first district. Bro. N. Thomas for the second.

Resolved, That the funds on hand for Minutes, Associational purposes, Domestic Missions and Sabbath Schools be paid over to the Clerk.

Resolved, That the Association return thanks to the brethren and friends of Montevallo Church and community for their hospitality during the session.

T. P. HOLCOMB, Moderator.

C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.

Adjourned until 2½ o'clock P. M.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. After singing, and prayer by the Moderator, proceeded to business.

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

TO SISTER ASSOCIATIONS: Receive this, our Letter, with our Minutes and Messengers, as a token of our Christian regard towards you, and the expression of our desire to continue correspondence with you. Viewing ourselves as co-

workers, in the great cause of Truth, and as gentle, yet firm opposers of error, we wish to keep a close alliance. Our next session will be held with Liberty Church, about 11 miles northwest of Columbiana, on Saturday before the 2nd Sabbath in October 1870, at which time meet with us. May God bless you abundantly. Amen.

T. P. HOLCOMB, Moderator.
C. W. O'HARA, Clerk.

Received of C. W. O'Hara, Clerk, in money $76 04; in pledges $16 02, for services as missionary.
Oct. 12th, 1869. W. W. Armstrong.

Received of C. W. O'Hara, Clerk, in money $52 90; in pledges $11 14; for services as missionary.
Oct. 12th, 1869. J. C. Hand.

Received of C. W. O'Hara Clerk, in money $26 45; in pledges $5 51, for services as missionary.
Oct. 12th 1869. J. H. R. Carden.

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CONSTITUTION.

1st. The members who are regularly chosen by the churches in our union, shall compose the Association, but in making appointments or assigning duties to be performed, it shall be constitutional for the Association to appoint to any such duty, any ordained minister whether in the bounds, or belonging to any church in the body, though said minister be not a delegate to this body.

2. The membars so chosen shall produce letters from their respective churches certifying their appointment, together with the state of their churches since their last representation.

3. The members thus chosen and convened shall be called the SHELBY ASSOCIATION of United Baptist Churches.

4. This Association shall sit as an advisory council, and shall have no power to "Lord it over God's heritage," nor infringe on the internal rights of the churches, but shall have power to exclude from the union, any church not orthodox in principle according to the Scriptures, and who fails to represent herself at one Association, and refuses to account for it at the next.

5. If any church commit an offence against another, it shall be the duty of the offended to labor with the offender for satisfaction, and if she fails of success, she shall call the aid of two or more sister churches to assist in laboring for satisfaction, and if satisfaction cannot be obtained, it shall be the duty of the agrieved church to lay the matter before the Association to be decided on according to its merits: —And if a serious difficulty should arise in an individual church, which after due labor, she cannot reconcile, she shall call to her aid two or more churches of her union, to assist her in the work; and if the difficulty be not then removed, it shall be the duty of the church to bring the case to the Association, to be acted on as above prescribed. But the Association will take cognizance of no case of the above kind, unless a due course of procedure shall have been previously pursued.

6. Any church desiring admittance into this union, shall petition by letter and messengers, and it found orthodox, shall be received by the Association through the moderator's giving the messengers the right hand of fellowship.

7. Every church in our union shall be entitled to three delegates, and one every additional fifty over fifty.

8. Any church in our union shall have the power to license members to preach the Gospel, and report the same to our next body, and in all ordinations we recommend a presbytery of two or more, and report to the next Association.

9. No query shall be taken under consideration in the Association except when cases of serious difficulty are likely to arise, and cannot be settled by the church nor by the assistance of other churches which they shall call upon, then if not settled they may send it to the Association.

10. This Association may correspond with any Baptist benevolent institution she may deem expedient.

22. This Association shall have power to elect a Moderator and Clerk of her own body.

12. Any amendment may be made to this plan or form of constitution at any time, when two-thirds of the Association may deem it expedient.

13. Any church wishing a letter of dismission, shall make application therefor by letter.

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ABSTRACT OF PRINCIPLES.

1st. We believe there is only one true and living God, and that there are three persons in the God-head, the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

2. We believe the scripture of the Old and New Testament are the word of God and the only proper rule of faith and practice.

3. We believe that election is the gracious and eternal purpose of God, according to which he regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners, that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end, that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy, that it is ascertained by its effect in all who believe the gospel is the foundation of christain assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, and that man is incapable of recovering himself from the fallen state he is in by nature by his own free will and ability.

5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ.

6. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper, are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects of the ordinances, and that Immersion only is christian baptism.

7. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the joys of the righteous, and punishment of the impenitent sinner, will be eternal.

8. We believe that no minister should administer the ordinances of the Gospel, only such as are called, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery, and in full fellowship with the church of which he is a member.

9. We believe that none but regularly baptized persons have a scriptural right to partake of the Lord's Supper.

10. We believe that the Saints shall be preserved in Grace and never fall finally away.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1st. The Association shall be opened and closed by prayer.

2. A Moderator and Clerk shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

3. The moderator shall be considered a judge of order, and shall have a discretional right to call to order at any time.

4. Any member not satisfied with his decision, may appeal to the Association on the same day, but at no other time.

5. But one member shall speak at a time, who shall rise to his feet, and on obtaining permission, proceed; which permission shall be signified by the moderator's naming the person, or otherwise.

6. No member shall be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject, and every motion made and seconded (in order) shall come under the consideration of the Association, and be decided on, unless withdrawn by him who made it.

7. Every case taken up by the Association shall be decided on, or withdrawn before another shall be offered.

8. When a question is taken up and sufficient time allowed for debate, the moderator shall take the voice of the Association on the subject, and those in the affirmative of the question, shall signify the same by standing up, then if need be, reverse the question, and pronounce the decision before the standers resume their seats.

9. The Association shall be governed in all cases by a majority, except in the reception and exclusion of Churches, which shall be by two-thirds at least, of the members present.

10. No member shall speak more than twice to the same proposition; without leave of the Association, nor more than three times without the concurrence of three-fourths of the members, nor shall any proposition be made to close the subject until the debates have been carried through.

11. The appellation of brother, shall be used in the Association by members in their addresses to one another.

12. Any member wishing to retire, shall obtain leave of the moderator.

13. The names of the delegates shall be called as often as the Association may direct

14. No member shall be tolerated in any practice which has a tendency to interrupt public speaking.

15. The moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other, provided he appoints another to his seat during the time, but shall not vote, unless the Association be equally divided.

16. Any member violating these rules shall be reproved, at the discretion of the moderator, but only on the day the breach shall have been made.

17 These rules shall be read at the opening of every session of the Association, and may be altered or amended when two-thirds of the members present, at any annual meeting, shall deem it neeessary,

Resolved, That the moderator appoint committees for the transaction of any business that may come before our body from time to time; but the alteration and number of each committee shall be by consent of this body.

	CHURCHES.	PASTORS.	NAMES OF DELEGATES.	Sab. of Preaching	Baptised	Rec'd by Letter	Dis. by Letter	Excluded	Restored	Died	Total	Minutes	Asst. Purposes	Dom. Mission	Sab Schools
First District.	Cahaba Valley	R. Wood	R. Wood, T. S. Miles, J. D. Ferrington	2	2	2	8	3		2	139	$2 00	$2 00	$	$
	Dogwood Grove.	T. B. Dison	T. B. Dison, H. Holsomback, D. Holsomback G. Laneir.	2	7	2	5	1			97	1 30		10 80	
	Enon	J. Langston	G. Jones and David Cruise	2	8	7	8	2	2		53	2 25		3 00	
	Montevallo	J. C. Boykin	H. R. Lyman, E. Reynolds, T. McConaughy	1	3	5	3	1			48	2 00	1 50	7 00	6 50
	New Antioch	T. B. Dison	James Booth and Shelby Booth	4		4	1	3		2	28	1 00		1 00	
	Six Mile	R. Wood	P. M. Fancher, W. E. J. Fancher Wm. J. Peters.	1	12	10	6				57	5 00			
	Union Bibb	" " "	Jas. Lucus, T. Fancher Y. Fancher	4			2				20	1 00	1 00		
	Union Shelby	J. T. Tichenor	J. C. Boykin and James Butler	4		19	26	1		3	24	2 00	1 00	8 50	
Second District.	Bethesda	W. W. Armstrong	L. J. Carden	3			3	5			64	1 25	1 00		
	Beaver Creek	J. H. R. Carden	W. A. Armstrong, W. Jemison G. W. Jones	3	2	2		1	1		35	2 00	2 00		
	Columbiana	Samuel Henderson	A. A. Sterrett	4	2						25	3 00	2 00		
	Evergreen	J. C. Hand	J. C. Hand, Wm. Watson, C. W. O'Hara	4		1					12	1 00	1 00	1 50	
	Liberty	T. P. Holcomb	T. P. Holcomb, J. H. R. Carden, W. C. Wilder	1	8	2	9	1			74	2 00	3 00		
	Mt. Calvary	" " "	B. Moore, W. W. Armstrong N. Thomas	2	1	1	12	2	2	1	52	2 00	1 50		
	Pleasant Hill		No Representation												
	Salem	T. P. Holcomb	J. J. Miner	3							10	75	75		

NOTE.—Evergreen church was constituted August 21st, 1869, with eleven members. Salem, September 22d, 1869, with ten members. Union, Shelby, during the year 1869.